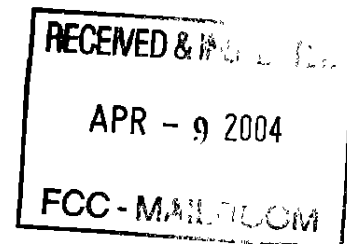




## Saint Martin de Porres Church

2340 W. Lehigh Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19132  
(215) 228-8330  
Fax (215) 221-6516



April 5, 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Reference is made to CC Docket No. 02-6. I am appealing the "Denied in full" decision rendered by Universal Service Administrative Company Schools & Libraries Division on Funding Request Number 1023810, 1023829, 1023837.

The denial was based on Universal's contention that we did not submit additional documentation that was required within a 7-day time frame. Our contention is that we did submit the information within the timeframe, but we have no way of proving that we did. I had faxed therequired information, and I sent it by mail. Although I kept copies of the fax and the envelope containing the mailing, I can prove neither. The fax machine that we were using at the time did not have the capability of date stamping the fax. As far as the mailing was concerned, I sent it regular mail.

I discussed this with Mr. John Christie of Universal on December 16, 2003. I told him that I could prove neither the timing of the fax or the mailing, and I understand that he has regulations to follow.

Now that I have the opportunity to appeal directly to the FCC, I hope that you will understand. If the basis for our denial was strictly our failure to comply with a 7-day time limit, I hope that you will consider the type of school that we are. We are located in one of the poorest areas of Philadelphia. Our student body is 100% Black American, and the parents of the children are some of the most poverty stricken residents in the City. They go through heroic financial lengths to pay the tuition required to send their children to a Catholic School. We do our best to keep costs down, and provide them with a quality education that is within their economic reach.

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I can provide you with a complete set of all of the application papers we filed with Universal. Please contact me if you require them to perform your review of our case.

I implore you to carefully consider our needs, and if the denial was based strictly on failure to meet a deadline, please be assured that we learned our lesson. In the future we will send all correspondence to Universal by registered mail, such as I am doing with this letter. We have also upgraded our fax capabilities, and we will be able to prove the time that a fax was sent.

The consideration that you give to this appeal is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward J. Deal".

Edward J. Deal  
Business Manager